

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated February 11, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 10 are hereby amended; and claims 3 and 21–22 are hereby canceled. Accordingly, claims 1–2, 4–6 and 8–20 are currently pending, with claims 9 and 12–20 withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1–4, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,204,907 to Hiraishi et al. (hereinafter “Hiraishi”); claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,331 to Sakamoto et al. (hereinafter “Sakamoto”); claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi; claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of Japanese Patent Application 02-220032 to Obara et al. (hereinafter “Obara”); and claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,263 to Song (hereinafter “Song”).

Claims 1–4, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiraishi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration. Independent claim 1 is allowable in that it recites “a pixel electrode disposed on and in contact with the gate insulating layer and the thin film transistor.” Nothing in Hiraishi teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and claims 2, 4, and 6, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over Hiraishi.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 10 and request reconsideration because claim 10 recites “a pixel electrode formed in a pixel region on the lower substrate, the pixel electrode connected to the drain electrode, and the pixel electrode in contact with the gate

insulating layer.” Nothing in Hiraishi teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable over Hiraishi.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in Sakamoto. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration because claim 5, which depends from claim 1, is allowable because Sakamoto fails to cure the deficiency of Hiraishi to teach or suggest “a pixel electrode disposed on and in contact with the gate insulating layer and the thin film transistor.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5, as it depends from claim 1, is allowable over Hiraishi and Sakamoto.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration. Claim 7 is canceled by this amendment, and claim 8 is rewritten in independent form. Independent claim is allowable in that it recites “forming a pixel electrode on the gate insulating layer, the pixel electrode being connected to the thin film transistor and in contact with the gate insulating layer.” Nothing in Hiraishi teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is allowable over Hiraishi.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in view of Obara. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration. Claim 11, which depends from claim 10, is allowable for the same or similar reasons as claim 10. The additional reference, Obara, fails to cure the deficiency of Hiraishi to teach or suggest “a pixel electrode formed in a pixel region on the lower substrate, the pixel electrode connected to the drain electrode, and the pixel electrode in contact with the gate insulating layer.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable over Hiraishi and Obara.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiraishi in view Song. Claims 21 and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 10/028,289
Amdt. dated June 14, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated February 11, 2005

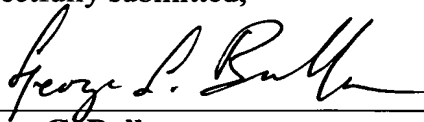
Docket No.: 8733.560.00

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 14, 2005

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